

PROGRAM LICENSE KEY ISSUING METHOD AND ISSUING SYSTEM

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 In performing the issuance of a license key to a user through a
selling agent or the like on line, the issuance of the license key is performed from a
manufacturer to the selling agent or the like in such a manner that information which the
selling agent or the like wants to keep in secret is prevented from being transmitted to the
manufacturer. Further, when a deadline of a trial period by a trial license key is coming
10 very close, a special license key which extends the deadline of the trial period is issued.
In operation, the sales computer receives client information, a product number and a
license program name inputted by a purchaser computer and transfers such information
from which the client information is eliminated to the license-issuing computer. The
license-issuing computer issues the license key when the authentication of the product
15 number is normally finished. Further, the present invention provides a trial license key to
a user. When the deadline of the trial period is coming very close so that the extension of
the deadline is necessary, a special license key is issued by transmitting the trial license
key or the like to the license-issuing computer.

20

25

30